



# **EY** **ON AFSB** **E** **South West Asia**

Army Materiel Command, Army Field Support Brigade, South West Asia

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## **CG-ASC visits Arifjan, briefed on operations**

The Commanding General of the Army Sustainment Command (Provisional) arrived from his Rock Island, Ill. Headquarters June 26, for operations briefings and to officially recognize completion of three new facilities at Camp Arifjan.

Maj. Gen. Jerome Johnson cut ceremonial ribbons to begin operations at the Communication Electronics Command's Forward Repair Activity, oil lab and calibration site and a vehicle maintenance facility for the Kuwait Battalion.

"This is just the kind of thing we need to do at the Army Field Support Brigade, so that we can bring in other Life Cycle Management Commands (LCMCs), give them a place to work, and make sure they have the things that they need in order to accomplish their job. Without the LC-



**Maj. Gen. Jerome Johnson visits with Soldier convoy drivers of the 37th Transportation Group during operation briefs at the Forward Repair Activity June 26. The Soldiers deliver cargo to the warfighters in Iraq. Johnson asked the Soldiers for their input on vehicle performance and asked for their suggestions for improvements.**

MCs, and what they bring to the table here in this theater, the brigade can't accomplish its mission. You all do great work over here and I thank you for volunteering to serve in Kuwait," said Johnson after his brief visit to the sites.

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**Maj. Gen. Jerome Johnson, commander of the Army Field Support Command, Rock Island Ill., cuts the ceremonial ribbon at a new Army Field Support Battalion-Kuwait repair shop for Army prepositioned stock, one of several newly constructed buildings at Camp Arifjan. (L to R) Master Sgt. Gregory Tubbs, Capt. Latrice Clark, Ms. Linda Mitchell, Sgt. 1st. Class Don Gimlen, Maj. Gen. Johnson, Mr. Dave Sears, Maj. Mitzi Dix, Lt. Col. Lawrence Fuller, Col. Jimmy Rhoades, Mr. Rudy Chavez.**

Johnson also toured the Humvee Refurbishment Center and another new refurbishment facility for rebuilding equipment for Iraqi Security Forces through the Kuwait Battalion. The commander toured the Tank Automotive and Armament Command's Forward Repair Activity where he was briefed on a new project to build 30 Humvee Egress Assistance Trainers (HEAT), which will soon be a training requirement for all Soldiers deployed to theater, and saw the Honeywell/Anniston Army Depot's new operations to rebuild M1A1 Tank engines.

### **AFSC to ASC**

## ***Army approves new command, will improve logistics management***

*By Michelle McCaskill  
Army Materiel Command  
Public and Congressional  
Affairs Office*

In order to stream line end-to-end logistics in support of the Army's modular force, the Army recently approved the establishment of a new subordinate command under the Army Materiel Command. This change transforms AMC's Army Field Support Command at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., to the Army Sustainment Command. The AFSC has already begun its transition to the ASC, with a ceremonial activation set for this fall.

"The Army is transforming and so is the Army Materiel Command," said Greg Kee, AMC deputy chief of staff, G-5, strategic plans and policy. "The Army has transformed to a brigade centric Army and AMC is realigning its organizational structures to support the Army modular force from the brigade to the national level," he said.

Transitioning into the ASC expands AFSC's current mission, which already includes managing the Army's pre-positioned stocks, the Logistics Civilian Augmentation Program and field support. Kee noted that this transformation adds reset synchronization, distribution and materiel management functions and integrating logistics support with joint and strategic partners.

To more closely support combatant commands, ASC will add authorizations for several hundred Soldiers, while realigning a number of civilians with the command's global operations.

"Standing-up the ASC is a step in the right direction to improve logistical support to the Warfighter for several reasons," said Lt. Gen. William Mortensen, AMC deputy commanding general. "ASC enables us to be more responsive and provides a single interface point to the Soldier in the field for acquisition, logistics and technology. Converting AFSC to ASC will link the industrial Army to the expeditionary Army and help provide greater logistical integration and support to deploying forces as well as redeploying and training forces," he said.





**Govs. Mark Sanford (S.C.), Frank Murkowski (Alaska), and John Hoeven (N.D.) learn how emergency parts are manufactured for Army equipment needed in the Iraq and Afghanistan theater of operation from Army civilian machinist Andrew Davis, deployed from the Anniston Army Depot, Al., to the Mobile Parts Hospital. The governors visited here June 20 as part of a two-day tour of compounds in Kuwait and Iraq. Photo by Sgt. Thomas Day, 40th Public Affairs Detachment.**

## ***Stolen VA Laptop turned in to FBI***

*By Steven Donald Smith  
American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON, June 29, 2006 – The stolen Department of Veterans Affairs laptop computer and hard drive containing the personal information of more than 26 million veterans were turned in to the FBI yesterday, the Veterans Affairs secretary said before Congress today.

Reports indicate that the FBI has made a preliminary determination that data contained on the computer and hard drive has not been accessed.

There have been no reports of identity theft or other criminal activity related to the stolen computer, R. James Nicholson told the House Veterans Affairs Committee. He added that the VA would still honor its promise of free credit monitoring for a year.

An unnamed individual turned over the laptop and hard drive to FBI officials in Baltimore. No persons are in custody at this time, officials said.

The laptop and hard drive were stolen from the Montgomery County, Md., home of a VA employee on May 3. Government officials do not believe the data on the laptop was the target of the burglary, and consider the break-in a random theft.

“This has brought to light some real deficiencies in the manner we handled personal data,” Nicholson said. “If there’s a redeeming part of this, I think we can turn this around.”

Kee acknowledged change brings challenges, but AMC is prepared to face them head-on. “We are working with operational commanders to ensure that there is no gap in logistics capability to the Warfighter as we transform.”

*As part of this transformation, the Army Field Support Brigade South West Asia will be designated as the 401st Brigade of the Army Sustainment Command, October 1. -Editor*

## **New Bde. CO to arrive July**

Leadership for the Army Field Support Brigade Southwest Asia will arrive later this month to prepare to take over the brigade command on August 2 at ceremonies in Qatar.

Col. Greg Cusimano will become Commander of the Army Field Support Brigade, Southwest Asia. His last assignment was Chief, Army Munitions Management Office, Headquarters, Department of the Army, Operations.

Cusimano was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland and graduated from the University of Maryland with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1982 and was commissioned through Officer Candidate School, Fort Benning, Ga., in 1984. Originally commissioned in the Adjutant General Corps,

he was branched to the Ordnance Corps upon completion of the Ordnance Advanced Course in 1989. In June, 2005, he completed the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pa.

Cusimano’s past assignments include: Commander, B Company, 125th Forward Support Battalion, Bamberg, Germany, deployed with the 1st Armored Division in Operation Desert Shield/Storm; Operations Officer, 101st Corps Support Group and Executive Officer, 561st Corps Support Battalion, Ft. Campbell, Ky; served as a Logistics Staff Officer at Headquarters DA in the Army G-4, and at Headquarters U.S. Southern Command, Miami Fla., as a Joint Logistics Plans Officer in the J-4. Cusimano then returned to Bamberg, Germany to Command the 71st Corps Support Battalion where he deployed with the 3rd COSCOM and V Corps in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. Upon relinquishing command in Balad, Iraq, he returned to Germany and was assigned as the Chief of Plans, G-4, U.S. Army Europe, Heidelberg.

Cusimano holds Masters of Science degrees in Logistics Management from La Salle University and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. His awards include the Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster and Defense Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster.

He is married to the former Dawn Young and has two children, Brooke 16, and Vincent, 9.



**Col. Greg W. Cusimano**

# ***From Sheriff to Deputy***

## *No stranger to AMC . . .*

**T**he new deputy to the commander for the 401<sup>st</sup> Army Field Support Brigade arrived at Camp Arifjan June 18 to complete his fifth “circle of service” to the Army Materiel Command that began at Camp Doha, Kuwait in September 1991.

Rodolfo “Rudy” Chavez, A GS-15 civilian, replaced Mr. Robert Porter as the brigade’s deputy to the commander. Mr. Porter was assigned to AMC-SWA from April 2002 through May 2006 and recently re-assigned to command headquarters, Rock Island, Ill.

“This is an unusual experience! From less than 100 AMC personnel in 1991 to more than 50,000 now. If there is a person I’d like to relieve from this deployment, it’s Robert Porter. I have great respect for his 4 years of continuous service at Camp Doha and Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. He’s done an excellent job for the command,” said Chavez.

Chavez is a native of Corpus Christi, Texas and joined the Air Force in 1968 as a crash and rescue firefighter, serving in Vietnam and Germany. He then changed his specialty to air rescue and later to Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment (TMDE) and Army Oil Analysis Program (AOAP). Finally, he spent 11 years as a First Sergeant for the 404<sup>th</sup> Combat Logistics Support Squadron at Kelly AFB where he retired with 23 years of service.

Chavez switched over to Army civilian service at Red River Army Depot in 1988 and then was selected as an intern Logistics Area Representative (LAR) at Fort Hood, Texas where he stood-up the processing cell known as the mini-APG which processed over 150 AMC personnel to overseas movement in support of the First Gulf War.

“As an intern, I wasn’t allowed to deploy, but I learned all of the requirements to get LARS in theater embedded with Soldiers,” said Chavez. There were no deployment procedures in place to get LARS into the combat zone and no money authorized for equipment so Chavez learned the art of “scrounging” and was able to get these specialized logisticians into the fight.

Through his lessons learned in AMC logistics, Chavez was called upon by the command to account for all of the Army civilians and contractors deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom. There were no procedures in place to track these specialists or know where they were located during the invasion.

With minimum computers and software, Chavez and a team of 6 volunteers set up the first Contractors on the Battlefield Cell (KOB) at Camp Arifjan under the direction of Major



**Texan Rudy Chavez, new deputy to the commander, sporting a beard, but the star on his chest is completely Army. The veteran Logistics Area Representative (LAR) stood up the first AMC office at Camp Doha in 1991 and returned this month for his fifth deployment in theater, replacing Mr. Robert Porter.**

General Vennie Boles.

“There were no regulations, no point of contact, no guidance and no information to work from,” Chavez said. “Camp Arifjan was in the initial stage of setting up its infrastructure. The team stayed in the north end of building 504 and set up shop in the COMEL building,” he said

Chavez said that at first, the contractors were a bit leery of this cell, which was tasked to gather personal identification information and company affiliation on everyone. “As the Scuds came in and the threat began to get higher and higher, we became their best friends,” he said, smiling. Chavez and his team would set up a table as personnel lined up for chow, at the clinic where everyone was required to receive immunizations, and other areas where the civilians would congregate, such as the Aerial Port of Debarkation.

After his redeployment back to AMC headquarters, Chavez again analyzed all of the procedures that worked and noted all of the problems encountered in a Lessons Learned document that was used to write the DoD and Army procedures for KOB Cells worldwide.

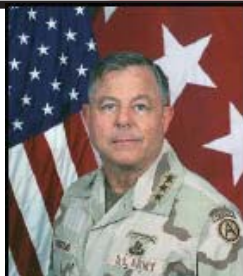
Chavez, is married with five children; Melissa, Melanie, Rod, Dan and Anna. He has a Bachelors Degree in Industry and Technology that he was able to acquire during his full time employment. He’s spent 23 years working for the govt., his last 18.5 years with AMC.

“I’m honored to serve here and look forward to meeting the brigade workforce here in theater. Thank you, AMC family for volunteering to work in South West Asia away from your friends and family,” Chavez said. “We are making history in our mission to support the warfighter and are creating personal bonds and memories that will always remain with us. We must work future plans hard and continue to capture lessons learned, apply Lean Six Sigma principles and take care of Soldiers,” said Chavez.



## ***4th of July Message from The Commanding General, Third Army***

**Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb**



We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

- The Declaration of Independence

These are not just words. This sentence embodies the very foundation of America. It captures the essence of what it means to be an American citizen. Our forefathers dedicated their lives and fought gallantly to leave a legacy of freedom and equality for generations to follow.

The 13 original colonies of the United States declared independence from Britain on July 4, 1776. They grew weary of the problems the people faced under the rule of King George III, whose dictatorship extended 3,000 miles across the Atlantic Ocean. The people were tired of unfair taxes and an oppressive government. Angered by their lack of a voice in government, Americans determined to govern themselves. It would take eleven long years before our Constitution and Bill of Rights were created in 1787.

Today the fight continues to establish freedom around the globe. We currently fight a faceless enemy who attempts to enslave through the use of terror. They fight against the freedoms of speech, press and religion that we so richly enjoy.

You - Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and Soldiers in Slacks - are fighting every day, making significant personal sacrifices for duty, honor and country. You, like our forefathers who fought so hard to establish America and the Declaration of Independence, are the patriots of today that ensure our children's children enjoy those same freedoms. You represent the best of our nation and you represent that same liberty and the spirit of independence established by our forefathers on July 4th, 1776.

What you are fighting for is worth it. Because of your efforts, America's sons and daughters will not be denied the rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. You are the protector of your families, your communities, your Nation and represent to the world what is right about the United States. Remain steadfast in your commitment to defeat our enemies who attempt to take away our earned freedoms and live the values of our Army every day.

Remember. America is the land of the free because of the brave. As I think of you this holiday, the one feeling that rises above all others is an intense sense of pride. I could not have asked for a more dedicated and professional team - you are truly superb!

## **July 13 ceremony at Qatar**

# ***New commander takes over Bn-QA***

The Army Field Support Battalion-Qatar will host a Change of Command ceremony July 13; beginning a summer of transition for the Army Field Support Brigade, Southwest Asia.

Lt. Col. Maxine C. Girard will assume command of the Qatar Battalion from Lt. Col. Jon Buonerba in the traditional Army ceremony.

Girard arrives in Qatar from the United States Transportation Command, where she served as Chief, Sustainment Branch, J3, Contingency Division. She was responsible for the supply chain management of Sustainment End to End, as the distribution process owner for Central Command and the European Command Area of Responsibility.

Girard graduated from Indiana University, Bloomington, as a second lieutenant in 1986 with a degree in Political Science/International Relations, and later earned her Masters of Arts in Management from Webster University. She completed the Quartermaster Advanced and Aerial Delivery maintenance courses in 1991 and Command General Staff College in 1996 and was assigned to the Army Central Command in Atlanta as the Assistant Secretary of the General Staff and Support Operations Officer, Supply, and deployed to Kuwait as the CFLCC Supply and Mortuary Affairs Officer.

Girard also served as a Logistics Analyst at the United States Forces Command, Republic of Korea and became the support operations officer at Taegu, Korea. She was also assigned Chief, Plans and Operations and Executive Officer for the 7th Transportation Battalion of the 1st Corps Support Command at Fort Bragg.



**Lt. Col. Maxcine C. Girard**

# ***Safety Message***

## **Summer heat is dangerous**

*Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw  
Third Army/USARCENT PAO/11th PAD*



Heat can kill just as easily as a bullet.

Most logistical needs are focused around ammunition and food, but water is just as essential, according to Maj. Dennis Kilian, Third Army Command Surgeon Cell force health protection officer.

Kilian is referring to Field Manual 21-10-1, Unit Field Sanitation Team, Chapter 2-2 citation that states, "Egyptians suffered 20,000 deaths due to heat while the Israelis had no deaths and only 128 cases of heat injury. The Israelis demonstrated that health hazards, such as heat, can be as effective as tactical weapons in securing success on the battlefield."

With the weather getting hotter, Sgt. 1st Class Eva Roberts, Third Army safety deputy director, said her main concern is heat casualties.

"In May we had 17 heat casualties," she said. "Last year in July there were 31."

Eighty percent of these casualties were given 72 hours of quarters followed by three days of light duty and another three days of integration into the heat.

"If you think about last month's numbers, that's two squads out of your platoon," Roberts said. "That's a lot of Soldiers to be missing for 10 days."

Kilian said servicemembers need to be careful in this heat, especially with the summer months here. He added the highest temperature this year has reached 127 degrees, but last year's high was 147 degrees.

The temperature outside is not as important as a person's core body temperature, which is what causes heat injuries.

"The body is meant to work at 98.6 degrees," Kilian said. "We start to get concerned when the core temperature reaches 104 degrees. At 106 brain damage begins and if the temperature stays there, death can occur."

Long-term damage includes losing some of the ability to mitigate heat stress, Kilian said.

"That's why it is essential to know who previous heat casualties are so they can be more closely monitored," he added.

Warning signs that a servicemember could become a heat casualty include thirst, headache, cramps, lack of focus, red and dry skin that is hot to the touch, not sweating and loss of consciousness.

"These are the things your body does to tell you you're running low," Kilian said.

The best gauge of an individual's hydration is the color of their urine, according to Roberts and Kilian.

"You want it to be clear or light yellow," Roberts said.

There are a variety of things people should do to avoid becoming a heat casualty according to Roberts and Kilian. These include drinking plenty of fluids, avoiding diuretics and caffeine, eating a well-balanced diet and getting enough rest.

Hydrating is one of the main concerns of Kilian.

"If you get thirsty, you are already 45 minutes behind the power curve," he said. "Because it's so dry out here, your body automatically loses lots of water."

Kilian added some servicemembers are concerned with consuming too much water, but he said this shouldn't be a concern if the individual has a well-balanced diet.

The other major concern according to Roberts and Kilian is sun exposure. A Central Command force health protection requirement is for all servicemembers to have their sleeves down. This helps prevent sunburn and heat injuries.

"When the skin becomes sun burned the water loss is higher," Kilian said.

Both said this is a leadership issue because it is taking care of troops.

"In safety we say, 'Soldiers first, mission always,'" Roberts said.

He added, they really need to take care of our servicemembers, whether they like it or not.



## **FIRE SAFETY**

*Area Support Group Safety Office*



Last year in a Zone 1 barracks, a candle was left burning on a windowsill. The room occupant had left for work. The unattended candle ignited a plastic shower curtain being used to block sunlight and then spread to adjacent cloth curtains. Fortunately, the person in the adjoining room was able to react quickly to extinguish the fire with the room fire extinguisher before the fire could spread further.

The use of incense, candles, or other open flame devices is prohibited in all structures, permanent or temporary. During our careers we have likely heard this as often as we are reminded of the prohibition of smoking in military buildings. It is important that we strictly follow these policies for everyone's safety. Had the neighbor in the barracks not been alert, the result could have easily resulted in injuries or worse. Even without injuries, many people fortunate enough to be living in this barracks could have ended up residing in tents today if the fire had not been quickly contained.

Regardless of where you live or work, **Be Fire Smart!**

Eye On AMC South West Asia 6



### Bn-QA Commander's Farewell Message

As I close out my two years in command, I can honestly say that my tenure here in Qatar has been the most rewarding and fulfilling duty the Army has entrusted me to undertake. All of you serving here in Southwest Asia are doing monumental tasks as we continue to fight the Global War on Terror. I am proud to have served with such a fine group of dedicated Soldiers, DA Civilians and Contractors all working towards a common goal - to provide superior logistical support to the warfighter.



The team of professionals who represent Army Field Support Battalion - Qatar are the finest workforce I have had the pleasure to lead. Your commitment and dedication to accomplishing the mission was absolutely amazing. What impressed me more than anything else is that every assigned mission was not only fulfilled but performed to standard and without fanfare, seven days week, 24 hours a day under arduous conditions. Whether you were restoring M1A1 Tanks for the Third Infantry Division, resetting a Patriot Air Defense Artillery Battalion, refurbishing hundreds of humvees and the family of medium tactical vehicles or rebuilding Strykers for the deployed Stryker Brigade Combat Team, all were done with the customer in mind - the young Soldier who would eventually take the equipment into combat. Often times, I would ask myself at the end of the day what had I done to support the war effort and I can honestly say that the contributions made by the workforce in AFSBn-QA helped save Soldiers lives and had a profound impact on the ability of the warfighter to accomplish his mission.

As I depart this fine organization, I ask that each and everyone one of you continue to press forward and do your very best each and every day. Never forget why you are here or who you serve. We have the finest Army in the world and it's our job to supply with it with the best equipment possible as our Soldiers are counting on you. I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to the entire AMC team and I wish all of you much success and good fortunes wherever you may go.

Thank you for your untiring efforts and devotion to such a noble and worthy mission. Stay safe and may God bless you, our Army and the great Nation we serve.

Lt. Col. JON K. BUONERBA

## Welcome, new Brigade Chaplain!

Lt. Col. Jack Woodford arrived at Camp Arifjan June 18 as the newly assigned Chaplain for the Army Materiel Command's theater operations.

Woodford arrived from Fort Monmouth, N.J., where he served with the Communications-Electronics Lifecycle Management Command. Previous to that assignment he served as the CFLCC Plans and Operations Chaplain at Camp Doha from July 2002- July 2003.

Woodford recalled that during his first tour at Doha, Soldiers at Arifjan lived in tents and few building had air conditioning.



Chaplain Lt. Col. Jack Woodford

"It's nice to see how things have matured at Arifjan," said the Chaplain. "I am happy to be here and a part of the AMC Team. I look forward to getting around to meet all of you in the battalions and brigades," he said.

If you need Chaplain assistance, or just need listening ears, please call Chaplain Woodford at DSN 318-430-4629, or local cell # 720-1289.

Chaplain Lt. Col. Joseph Kraitz returned to Tank Automotive and Armaments Command, Warren, Mich.

## News from "Wilson's Weeping Willows"



- Tenants of "Wilson's Weeping Willows" are asked to please keep the grounds clean around the billets. There are no accusations of dumping trash; we all know the wind blows debris around the area! It just takes a few minutes and scheduled "down" time on Sundays is a good time to make the real estate look presentable.
- Please leave the laundry room clean and unplug appliances that are broken so the next person knows which units work.
- Report all maintenance problems to Ms. Geraldine Alexander by E-mail, listing your room number and the A or B designation; and be prepared to be at your room if you don't want workers unaccompanied. In other words, lock up your valuables if you plan to stay at work during the repairs.
- All barbecue cooking requires a Fire Permit from the Fire Department. You are responsible for making the request for the burn permit, and remember that the grill must be at least 50 feet from any structure and requires a fire extinguisher at the cooking site.

# ***Bn continues sending equipment home***

*By Capt. Michael Hiatt  
AFSB SWA Radiation Officer*

Since 2003, Operation Iraqi Freedom has required deployed units to bring most their equipment with them when they deploy in theater and the Army Field Support Battalion-Kuwait, is working hard to get the excess equipment back to the states so that units can be re-stocked.

To date, the battalion has received more than 6,000 pieces of theater provided equipment from Iraq, and some of it has been in theater since the 2003 invasion. After more than three years of heavy use in the harsh environment of Iraq, most of the equipment needs maintenance work. It is AFSBn-KU's job to make sure that the equipment is brought back to high performance standards or shipped back to the States for depot level maintenance. About a third of the equipment received at Camp Arifjan is used for theater redistribution. AFSBn-KU repairs the vehicles, provides add on armor, and tests the equipment to make sure it is fully mission capable.

The equipment returning stateside has many steps that it has to go through before it's placed on a ship for the ride home. Once item managers at major commands determine that a piece of equipment is needed back in the States and issue disposition instructions, AFSBn-KU starts the long process to get it home.

First, the battalion removes all garbage from the vehicles, removes all armor put on by the units in Iraq, including "hillbilly armor," and then sends the vehicles to the wash rack for agricultural cleaning mandated by US Customs Law, as it is illegal to import foreign soil, animals, or plants into the United States.

This through wash rack cleansing can take several hours per vehicle. US Navy units, whose job it is to ensure US Customs law is followed, inspect each piece of equipment after the cleaning process. After the Navy inspection, the equipment is placed in one of the sterile lots



**THEY'VE SEEN BETTER DAYS-** A line of HEMTTs wait for transportation to a stateside depot for complete overhaul. The vehicles will be re-issued to units for training or to replace HEMTTs that traveled with units into the theater at the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

on Camp Arifjan, where it awaits a "call forward" to the seaport for the voyage home.

Every week multiple convoys bring equipment down from Iraq and every month a few ships load up with equipment for the long voyage home.

AFSBn-KU has shipped almost a thousand pieces back and has another thousand pieces waiting for transportation.



**A worker pressure washes a HEMTT at the battalion wash racks prior to customs inspection. The truck will then be moved to the sterile yard to await movement to the port for transport to the states.**



## Commander's Farewell Message

The days have quickly turned into years, and it's now the time for my final commanders' corner. We've collected many wonderful memories along my journey here, while gaining good friends who are like family to me. We've accomplished a lot but there are many more things we must contribute to assure Freedom in this region. We have collectively accomplished all assigned tasks with nothing short of great results, despite harsh working conditions (but recently improved living conditions!). Your performance will light the way for the coming challenges under a new commander that holds a bright future for AMC-SWA and the 401<sup>st</sup> Field Support Brigade. I am sure that Col. Cusimano will raise the bar on your performance. He is a well qualified logistician and leader. Thanks for allowing me to share this wonderful experience with you.

You are a great team. The contractors, DA civilians, and Soldiers working together have amplified the saying "One team, One fight." We couldn't have attained our achievements any other way. I can't say enough about the NCOs who've maintained their professionalism throughout these challenging times. The quality of our Soldiers amazes me everyday; Active, Reserve Army and National Guard are all equally talented, dedicated, and professional. The civilians, who have volunteered to be here over and over again, have made an unforgettable impression on me.



One thing that stands out for me is your support for the Warfighter. We've worked together as a team to accomplish all the assigned missions given to us. I still remember not long ago, we had only two battalions in theater and we were spread very thin. Those times have changed in an impressive way, with five battalions and two brigade headquarters.

As we look to the future, there is still much work to do. You will continue to work

pre-positioned stocks, the next generation satellite systems, new vehicle fieldings, and refurbishment programs. There will be more emphasis on resolving watercraft maintenance contracts, retrograde and redistribution missions, and more military construction projects planned for the next commander. Please support him as you have supported me.

Thank you for a job well done! I counted on everyone to work together and you did just that while managing to have some fun along the way. I must also thank each of your families for the commitment that they have made and their support to each of us. This has made all the difference to me and I would be remiss if I didn't thank my spouse Gina for her support and contributions here in the desert and during my entire career. As Bob Hope would say, "Thanks for the memories"; and also thank each and every one of you for your service to the Nation. One Mind, One Heart and One Purpose.

**Col. Charles A. Wilson**



Maj. Mitzi and Lt. Col. James Dix

## ***“Military family” with real meaning***

By Masayo Cole  
AF Bn S-3

Military unit families create special bonds generated through the experiences of a military tour and it's not unusual to establish especially tight friendships in a combat zone; but the commander of the Army Field Support Battalion—Afghanistan actually found real family in the deserts of Southwest Asia.

Lt. Col. Richard Dix arrived at Bagram Air Base in March, 2006 with a clear agenda; create his own mission statement for the “troops” and the brigade, set goals for his team and begin to create a rapport with the unit. If done properly, a unit can establish bonds as strong as those created in an immediate family.

Dix flew to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait in June to meet the Army Materiel Command Commanding General, Gen. Benjamin Griffin for operation briefings. During the briefs, his counterpart in Kuwait, Lt. Col. Lawrence Fuller approached Dix.

“I want to introduce you to someone,” said Fuller, and then introduced Maj. Mitzi Dix, his battalion Army Acquisition Officer, who serves as the battalion contract management officer, managing more than 2,800 contractors. Telephone calls were placed and E-mails confirmed it—the officers were cousins!

Both Mitzi and Battalion Commander Dix were pleased and grateful for their new-found cousins and a bond quickly developed, which led to shared ideas, hopes and dreams for them both. The younger Dix is excited about the wise counsel she is receiving from the Afghanistan commander.

“He’s a very intelligent, multifunctional logistician and despite his busy schedule, he always makes time to mentor me and other young officers,” she said.

Mitzi is a graduate of Howard University, Washington, D.C. and has been assigned in Kuwait since Oct. 2005. Cousin Richard holds a Master of Arts Degree in Procurement and Acquisitions Management from Webster University.

“It was amazing that she is living the dream that I wanted at one point in my career, but the Army thought I was better suited to be an operational logistician! I am very proud of Mitzi and her future is bright! She must be a Dix! It runs in the family! You got to Love It and you’ve got to want to be here! Support through flexibility and family! Hooah,” said the senior Dix.

### **AFSBn-Afghanistan**

## ***Bn meets APS supply goal***

By Masayo Cole  
AF Bn S-3

The supply and maintenance status of the Army pre-positioned supply stock for the Army Field Support Battalion-Afghanistan has reached its fully operational capacity. A “drop dead date” set by the Department of the Army and the Army Materiel Command has met this mission due to equipment received from AMC assets worldwide.

AMC-AFSBn-AF was tasked to ensure the Modified Table Organizational Equipment (MTOE) set and the Motorized Option (MO) authorization for a light battalion is prepared for a battalion to assume ownership once in country.

It costs the government millions to mobilize assets for a battalion— often months to reach the designated battle site. AFSBn-AF completed the Department of the Army (DA) tasking ahead of schedule; however, one piece of equipment on hand was not 100 percent functional. Mechanics spent weeks on troubleshooting the Chemical and Biological Protected Shelter (CBPS), but could not identify the problem.

The CBPS is a soft shelter that blocks contaminants while connected to a humvee. It is used by medical personal during combat to decontaminate patient for medical



**Chem/Bio Protection Shelter**

care. This shelter would not have been of any value to a light battalion in its existing status. Mechanics’ Timothy Rupert and Chad Render, both contractors with AECOM, were bewildered as to what was preventing the soft shelter from inflating. They identified and fixed everything and were at their wits end when Mr. Antony Rowe, a quality assurance technician, asked Mr. Carl Shealey to look at the vehicle. Shealey, another contractor for AECOM, also went to work troubleshooting the equipment.

Shealey began troubleshooting the electronic portion of the system and deter-



**Carl Shealey**

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mined that the relays were defective, replaced them, and the soft shelter inflated and the air conditioning cooled the CBPS as needed to meet fully functional capabilities set by Army standards.

Finally, the combined efforts of the AECOM crew paid off and brought the light battalion MTOE and MO to the level required by DA. When asked what he thought of Shealey's abilities, Rowe responded, "He is a hero when it comes to troubleshooting electrical over hydraulic systems; it's not an easy task for anyone. We need to keep him in the fight for freedom."

## **AFSBN-Afghanistan**

# ***Civilians keep mine equipment rolling***

By Masayo Cole  
AF Bn S-3

You don't hear much about these contractors, but they are there in the background, leaning forward in the foxhole for the warfighters. They work in Afghanistan's mountains; their equipment must negotiate roads that can only be described as a trail over land that contains thousands of Soviet era land mines.

The Contractor Supported Equipment (CSE) in Afghanistan includes the de mining vehicles that identify the location and removal of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and land mines. These vehicles are armored and "blast-protected" to keep Soldiers safe while on patrol.

Bill Mundy, site manager of the Bagram Defense Systems Group, a division of ManTech, Chantilly, Va., describes this equipment as the "spearhead of route clearance for the movement of troops across Afghanistan." The equipment support Route Clearance Packages (RCPs) that encounter and detect mines and IEDs, include the Husky, Meerkat and the Buffalo; specific vehicles used by the Army for mine clearing operations.

Counter Mining Equipment Maintenance Repair in Afghanistan supports ten Forward Operation Bases (FOBs) that support the mission of protecting the local Afghans. With 14 technicians to support the ten FOBs, and over a hundred vehicle

repairs per month, the contractors stay busy supporting the war on terrorism.

With the recent modifications needed to re-enforce the front suspension of the Buffalo, ManTech is extremely busy.

Modifications to the five Buffalos supporting the FOBs are first priority for the company.

"The modifications will sustain this equipment in Afghanistan's harsh terrain," said Mundy.

Modifications for this equipment are necessary since the primary design was for the terrain in Iraq; not mountainous Afghanistan. The manufacture-installed springs couldn't handle the Afghan terrain and the size or weight of the equipment, Mundy said.

Teamwork, long hours, and expertise of the ManTech crew with the combined with the other battalion civilians and Soldiers all lean forward to keep the Warfighter safe.

## ***Humvee refurb restarts***



**HUMVEE REFURB; NEW ORGANIZATION, SAME MISSION-** Brig. Gen. Raymond Mason, AMC's commanding general (Forward) visited the humvee refurbishment operations site near Camp Arifjan, June 19.

The Humvee Refurbishment Facility near Camp Arifjan was reorganized under new management June 1.

ITT Systems Division, Colorado Springs, Colo., a private defense contractor, is now in charge of the operations under contract with the Army and retained many of the original workers.

Brig. Gen. Raymond Mason, commanding general (Forward) of the Army Materiel Command, visited the site June 16 to welcome the new company and its 300-plus workforce.

"You've cranked out more than 600 humvees from this site . . . I want to personally thank you and the Soldiers up in Iraq also thank you. You may not realize it but you've saved a lot of lives," said Mason. "Everyone of those humvees we send up to Iraq and Afghanistan are top notch work; as good as I've seen and I've been in this Army for 27 years," he added.



**The Afghanistan Brigade ManTech Team maintains the land mine-related equipment keeping the Warfighter safe.**





Lt. Col. Jon K. Buonerba

